

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the tubular neck portion being configured to be mounted with a cap, the nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends and comprising:

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end towards the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and configured to be in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container;

a ring-shaped projection formed between the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle; ~~and~~

a constricted portion extending between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle, the constricted portion having an inwardly curved external surface with a minimum cross-sectional dimension that is less than external cross-sectional dimensions defined by the flange portion and the ring-shaped projection; and

a convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle to the ring-shaped projection, the convex arcuate outer surface defining a maximum external cross-sectional dimension that is less than the external cross-sectional dimension of the ring-shaped projection but greater than the minimum cross-sectional dimension of the constricted portion, wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the tubular neck portion being detachably mounted with a cap such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is in contact with an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends and comprising:

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end towards the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container;

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap, the ring-shaped projection being formed between the flange and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange and the top end of the nozzle; ~~and~~

a constricted portion between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle, the constricted portion having an inwardly curved external surface with a minimum cross-sectional dimension that is less than external cross-sectional dimensions defined by the flange portion and the ring-shaped projection; and

a convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle to the ring-shaped projection, the convex arcuate outer surface defining a maximum external cross-sectional dimension that is less than the external cross-sectional dimension of the ring-shaped projection but greater than the minimum cross-sectional dimension of the

constricted portion, wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion.

Claims 4 and 5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A nozzle according to claim 1, wherein at least two ring-shaped fins whose edges are to be hermetically brought into contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion upon inserting the nozzle into the tubular neck portion are formed on an outer circumferential surface of the nozzle between the flange portion and the bottom end portion of the nozzle while being vertical spaced apart, and an airtight air pool is formed between hermetic contact portions of the respective ring-shaped fins and the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion.

7. (currently amended) A nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends, portions of the nozzle between the ends being configured to be inserted into a tubular neck portion of a liquid container such that an outer circumferential surface of a lower portion of the nozzle is hermetically held in contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the tubular neck portion being detachably mounted with a cap such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is spirally engaged with or locked into an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the nozzle comprising:

a discharging hole extending from the top end of the nozzle and into the liquid container, the discharging hole being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top and bottom ends of the nozzle and in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container;

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap, the ring-shaped projection being formed between the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle; ~~and~~

a constricted portion between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle, the constricted portion having an inwardly curved external surface with a minimum cross-sectional dimension that is less than external cross-sectional dimensions defined by the flange portion and the ring-shaped projection; and

a convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle to the ring-shaped projection, the convex arcuate outer surface defining a maximum external cross-sectional dimension that is less than the external cross-sectional dimension of the ring-shaped projection but greater than the minimum cross-sectional dimension of the constricted portion, wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A nozzle according to claim 7, wherein at least two ring-shaped fins whose edges are to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion upon inserting the nozzle into the tubular neck portion are formed on the outer circumferential surface of the nozzle while being spaced apart from one another between the flange portion and the bottom end of the nozzle, and an airtight air pool is formed between hermetic contact portions of the respective ring-shaped fins and the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion.

11. (currently amended) A nozzle which is formed on a top of a cap hermetically mounted on a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the cap being coupled with an upper lid via a hinge, the upper lid being formed with a tubular portion on an inner top portion thereof, the nozzle comprising:

opposite top and bottom ends, the bottom end at the top of the cap;

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end substantially to the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by the inner top portion of the upper lid;

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular portion of the upper lid, the ring-shaped projection being formed between the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle; ~~and~~

a constricted portion between the ring-shaped projection of the nozzle and the bottom end of the nozzle, the constricted portion having an inwardly curved external surface with a minimum cross-sectional dimension that is less than an external cross-sectional dimension defined by the ring-shaped projection; and

a convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle to the ring-shaped projection, the convex arcuate outer surface defining a maximum external cross-sectional dimension that is less than the external cross-sectional dimension of the ring-shaped projection but greater than the minimum cross-sectional dimension of the constricted portion, wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion.

Claims 12-18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the nozzle having opposite and bottom ends comprising:

a discharging hole extending from the top end towards the bottom end for discharging liquid from the liquid container;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and configured to be in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container;

a ring-shaped projection formed between and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle; ~~and~~

a constricted portion between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle, the constricted portion having an inwardly curved external surface with a minimum cross-sectional dimension that is less than external cross-sectional dimensions defined by the flange portion and the ring-shaped projection; and

a convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle to the ring-shaped projection, the convex arcuate outer surface defining a maximum external cross-sectional dimension that is less than the external cross-sectional dimension of the ring-shaped projection but greater than the minimum cross-sectional dimension of the constricted portion, wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion.

Claims 20-26 (canceled).

27. (new) A nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped projection has a tapered or chamfered upper surface that intersects the convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle.

28. (new) A nozzle according to claim 3, wherein the ring-shaped projection has a tapered or chamfered upper surface that intersects the convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle.

29. (new) A nozzle according to claim 7, wherein the ring-shaped projection has a tapered or chamfered upper surface that intersects the convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle.

30. (new) A nozzle according to claim 11, wherein the ring-shaped projection has a tapered or chamfered upper surface that intersects the convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle.

31. (new) A nozzle according to claim 19, wherein the ring-shaped projection has a tapered or chamfered upper surface that intersects the convex arcuate portion extending from the top end of the nozzle.

32. (new) A nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle is formed unitarily from a synthetic resin.

33. (new) A nozzle according to claim 3, wherein the nozzle is formed unitarily from a synthetic resin.

34. (new) A nozzle according to claim 7, wherein the nozzle is formed unitarily from a synthetic resin.

35. (new) A nozzle according to claim 11, wherein the nozzle is formed unitarily from a synthetic resin.

36. (new) A nozzle according to claim 19, wherein the nozzle is formed unitarily from a synthetic resin.